

Amendments to the Claims

- 1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a relational view of electronic objects,  
2 comprising steps of:
  - 3 obtaining organizing rules for organizing electronic objects according to relationships;
  - 4 applying the obtained organizing rules against one or more a plurality of electronic
  - 5 objects, yielding organized electronic objects; and
  - 6 rendering a view of the organized electronic objects.
  
- 1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view  
2 comprises a hierarchical view.
  
- 1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view  
2 comprises a nodal view.
  
- 1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view  
2 comprises a network view.
  
- 1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view  
2 comprises a visual view.
  
- 1 Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic objects comprise at

2 least one of e-mail messages, textual documents, and image files.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules specify node-  
2 specific organizing criteria for a multi-level index.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating  
2 operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon occurrence of a new electronic object.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating  
2 operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon modification of the organizing rules.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating  
2 operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon request of a user.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules specify one  
2 or more of text characters, text words, and text phrases as organizing criteria.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules  
2 specify one or more images image files as organizing criteria.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the

2 organizing rules, further comprising steps of:  
3 retrieving a selection of categories;  
4 enabling a user to select one or more of the retrieved categories; and  
5 for each selected category, enabling the user to build at least one rule.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the step of enabling the user to  
2 build at least one rule further comprises the steps of:  
3 retrieving a selection of organizing criteria;  
4 enabling the user to select one or more of the retrieved organizing criteria; and  
5 formatting a particular rule from the selected retrieved organizing criteria.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A system for providing a relational view of electronic objects,  
2 comprising:  
3 means for obtaining a plurality of organizing rules for organizing electronic objects  
4 according to relationships, wherein the organizing rules specify node-specific organizing criteria  
5 for nodes at levels of a multi-level index;  
6 means for applying the obtained organizing rules against one or more a plurality of  
7 electronic objects, yielding organized electronic objects organized according to the multi-level  
8 index; and  
9 means for rendering a view of the organized electronic objects.

1       Claim 16 (currently amended): A computer program product for providing a relational view of  
2       electronic objects, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable  
3       media and comprising:  
4                computer-readable program code means for obtaining organizing rules for organizing  
5       electronic objects according to relationships, wherein the organizing rules specify node-specific  
6       organizing criteria for a multi-level index;  
7                computer-readable program code means for applying the obtained organizing rules against  
8       one or more a plurality of electronic objects, yielding organized electronic objects; and  
9                computer-readable program code means for rendering a view of the organized electronic  
10      objects.

1       Claim 17 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relationships are dynamically  
2       selectable by a user.

1       Claim 18 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relationships are dynamically  
2       definable by a user.

1       Claim 19 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendered view comprises a multi-  
2       level structure that visually represents the relationships.

1       Claim 20 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the organizing rules for at least two

2 levels of the multi-level structure are different.

1 Claim 21 (new): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2 retrieving, responsive to a user indication of intent to define a new rule, a selection of  
3 organizing criteria;

4 enabling the user to select one or more of the retrieved organizing criteria; and

5 formatting the new rule from the selected organizing criteria.

1 Claim 22 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rules are rules of inclusion.

1 Claim 23 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rules are rules of exclusion.

1 Claim 24 (new): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of re-applying the  
2 organizing rules and refreshing the rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon  
3 occurrence of a predetermined event.

1 Claim 25 (new): The method according to Claim 24, wherein the predetermined event is  
2 expiration of a timer.

1 Claim 26 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein the rendered view comprises a  
2 multi-level structure that visually represents results of organizing the electronic objects using the

3 node-specific organizing criteria of the multi-level index.

1 Claim 27 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein the node-specific organizing criteria  
2 of two or more organizing nodes at a particular level of the multi-level index are different.

1 Claim 28 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein:

2 the rendered view comprises a multi-level structure; and

3 the objects rendered for at least one level of the multi-level structure are of different types.

1 Claim 29 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein the organizing rules specify one or  
2 more bitmaps as organizing criteria.

1 Claim 30 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for enabling a user  
2 to specify how nodes at selected levels of the multi-level index are initially rendered.

1 Claim 31 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for enabling a user  
2 to specify one or more locations at which the plurality of electronic objects are located.

1 Claim 32 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for re-applying the  
2 organizing rules and refreshing the rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon  
3 detecting a newly-created electronic object.

1      Claim 33 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for re-applying the  
2      organizing rules and refreshing the rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon  
3      detecting a newly-arriving electronic object.

1      Claim 34 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 16, wherein the rendered  
2      view comprises a multi-level structure that visually represents relationships among the organized  
3      objects.

1      Claim 35 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 34, wherein:  
2              each non-terminal level of the multi-level structure comprises at least one organizing node;  
3              and  
4              child nodes of each organizing node satisfy the node-specific organizing criteria of that  
5      organizing node.

1      Claim 36 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the node-  
2      specific organizing criteria of two or more organizing nodes at a particular level of the multi-level  
3      structure are different.

1      Claim 37 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the child nodes  
2      of at least organizing node are of different types.

1      Claim 38 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 16, further comprising  
2      computer-readable program code means for re-applying the organizing rules and refreshing the  
3      rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon detecting a modification to one or more  
4      of the organizing rules.

1      Claim 39 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 16, wherein the  
2      relationships are dynamically selectable by a user.